



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES BARRON, CHIPPEWA, CLARK, DUNN, EAU CLAIRE, PEPIN, PIERCE, POLK, ST. CROIX

June
2005

County
Per Capita
Personal
Income
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(updated
May 2005)

Unemployment rates tumble in May

Unemployment rates continued to decline in the West Central Wisconsin region in May as temperatures warmed and employers added workers to their payrolls. The unemployment rate for the nine-county region dropped to 4.4 percent in May, down from 5.1 percent in April and from 4.5 percent one year ago. In the Eau Claire-Chippewa metro area the unemployment rate declined from 4.7 percent in April to 4.3 percent in May, and

is now below both the Wisconsin and national, not seasonally adjusted, unemployment rates in May of 4.6 and 4.9 percent, respectively.

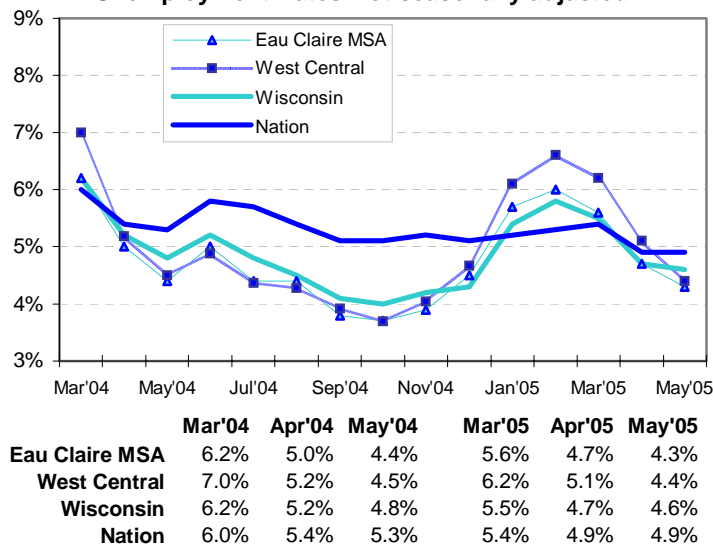
Eight of the nine counties in the West Central region were among the 54 counties statewide that showed a reduction in unemployment in May. Eau Claire County, with a 4.0 unemployment rate, reported no change in May. One of the larger reductions in unemployment rate oc-

curred in St. Croix County where the rate dropped 1.5 percentage points in May to 3.9 percent, the second lowest rate in West Central Wisconsin and 60th lowest in the state. The unemployment rate in Pierce County was lower a full percentage point lower in May at 3.7 percent and ranked 67th lowest among the state's 72 counties.

The labor force estimates in May are scrambled by the many changes in participation that occur during the month. High school students enter the workforce seeking summer jobs, seasonal workers shift from being unemployed to employed, and college students leave the area and the labor force for summer break. The net result in the region was the loss of 2,000 unemployed residents as job seekers either found a job or stopped looking.

The number of employed residents did increase by nearly 1,000 but that was the weakest increase in May since the late 1980s and comes on the heels of earlier months that also showed below average gains in employ-

Unemployment Rates-Not seasonally adjusted



Civilian Labor Force Estimates* for West Central Wisconsin counties: May 2005

	Barron			Chippewa			Clark			Dunn			Eau Claire Co.		
	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04
Labor force	25,290	25,169	25,000	31,049	31,282	31,305	17,755	17,468	17,124	23,856	23,871	23,725	54,210	54,212	54,812
Employed	24,116	23,757	23,665	29,496	29,477	29,776	16,666	16,384	16,247	22,885	22,699	22,711	52,064	52,031	52,558
Unemployed	1,174	1,412	1,335	1,553	1,805	1,529	1,089	1,084	877	971	1,172	1,014	2,146	2,181	2,254
% unemployed	4.6	5.6	5.3	5.0	5.8	4.9	6.1	6.2	5.1	4.1	4.9	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.1

	Pepin			Pierce			Polk			St. Croix			West Central region		
	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04
Labor force	3,934	3,935	3,864	23,100	23,393	23,009	23,255	23,397	22,770	41,941	42,686	41,931	244,390	245,413	243,540
Employed	3,767	3,729	3,704	22,253	22,288	22,164	22,197	22,039	21,600	40,315	40,381	40,156	233,759	232,785	232,581
Unemployed	167	206	160	847	1,105	845	1,058	1,358	1,170	1,626	2,305	1,775	10,631	12,628	10,959
% unemployed	4.2	5.2	4.1	3.7	4.7	3.7	4.5	5.8	5.1	3.9	5.4	4.2	4.4	5.1	4.5

* not seasonally adjusted

Industry Employment Estimates for West Central Wisconsin: May 2005

(Employment in thousands)	Barron			Clark			Dunn			Pepin		
	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04
Total Nonfarm	21.8	21.3	21.9	10.3	10.1	10.1	17.0	16.7	16.8	2.2	2.2	2.2
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.2
Manufacturing	5.4	5.3	5.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Trade	3.7	3.6	3.7	1.5	1.4	1.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Transportation & Utilities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Education & Health Services	2.6	2.6	2.6	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.3	0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	1.9	1.7	1.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.4	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.2
Info/Prof. & Bus.Serv./Other	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.4	1.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total Government	4.6	4.5	4.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	4.7	4.7	4.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
	Pierce			Polk			St. Croix			Eau Claire MSA		
	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04
Total Nonfarm	11.4	10.9	11.0	15.2	14.9	15.1	28.0	27.4	27.7	78.5	77.4	78.8
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.9	1.7	1.7	3.4	3.1	3.4
Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	0.8	3.6	3.6	3.7	5.5	5.4	5.6	10.4	10.3	10.4
Trade	1.0	0.9	1.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	4.6	4.5	4.5	12.7	12.4	13.2
Transportation & Utilities	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	3.0	2.9	2.9
Financial Activities	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	3.6	3.6	3.8
Education & Health Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	13.1	13.0	12.5
Leisure & Hospitality	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	3.4	3.2	3.4	7.3	7.0	7.7
Information/Prof. & Bus.Serv.	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.0	2.0	1.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	8.8	8.8	8.6
Other Services	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.7	3.7	3.7
Total Government	4.2	4.2	3.9	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	12.5	12.6	12.6

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2004 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

ment. Area employment continues to increase but at a moderate pace.

The weak employment gains reflect the smaller increases in the job counts. Even though the number of jobs with area employers did increase by 3,500 in May and the number of jobs in each month since January is a

new high for the month, the increase in jobs from the previous month has been below average.

In May there were 184,400 jobs with area employers, an increase of 3,500 from April and 840 more than one year ago.

Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI)

increased in each of the nine counties in West Central Wisconsin in 2003. The greatest increase of 4.0% occurred in Clark County while the least increase of 1.3% was in St. Croix County. In the nine-county area PCPI rose 2.4% less than the increase in Wisconsin of 2.5%.

PCPI is derived by dividing total personal income (earnings, dividends, interest, transfer payments) by total population. Earnings comprise 70% of total personal income in the region and increased 5.4% in 2003 compared with a 70% share in Wisconsin and an increase of 4.7%. PCPI in all but St. Croix County, the highest in the state, is below the state PCPI.

Information on PCPI is available at <http://www.bea.gov/region/reis/>

Per Capita Personal Income

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Rank	Percent of WI
Barron	\$21,634	\$22,267	\$23,029	\$24,406	\$24,116	\$24,922	41	81%
Chippewa	\$23,158	\$23,841	\$25,018	\$25,070	\$25,560	\$25,999	36	85%
Clark	\$19,510	\$20,082	\$20,468	\$21,065	\$21,371	\$22,227	66	72%
Dunn	\$19,922	\$21,032	\$21,964	\$22,040	\$22,269	\$22,885	58	75%
Eau Claire	\$23,368	\$24,453	\$25,934	\$26,451	\$26,863	\$27,469	29	90%
Pepin	\$21,607	\$22,115	\$23,109	\$23,548	\$23,722	\$24,407	44	80%
Pierce	\$23,572	\$24,590	\$25,770	\$27,129	\$27,376	\$27,963	26	91%
Polk	\$21,239	\$22,113	\$23,404	\$23,651	\$23,581	\$24,201	46	79%
St. Croix	\$27,367	\$28,998	\$30,670	\$31,017	\$30,681	\$31,091	10	101%
West Central Wisconsin	\$22,871	\$23,870	\$25,084	\$25,635	\$25,798	\$26,419		86%
Wisconsin	\$26,175	\$27,135	\$28,570	\$29,392	\$29,937	\$30,685		100%

Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, May 2005

Find the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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